

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of employing a hub of a type being structured for use in conjunction with a spool having a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics, for determining at least a first known characteristic of the number of known characteristics of the material, the hub method comprising:

employing a core including a central axis \div , the core being structured to be disposed on the spool;

employing an indication member \div , the indication member including a support, at least a first tab, and a second tab;

employing the at least first tab being as an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

employing the second tab being as a characteristic tab \div , the support being mounted on the core \div , the at least first and second tabs being disposed on the support \div , the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core \div , the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

detecting the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab; and

employing the detected orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab to determine said at least a first known characteristic of the number of known corresponding with the characteristics of the material.

2. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim \pm 10, wherein the indication member is generally flat; and the support and the at least first tab being generally coplanar.

3. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim \pm 10, wherein the indication member is a monolithically-formed single-piece member.

4. (Original) The hub of Claim 3, wherein the support extends between the at least first and second tabs; the support being at least partially arcuate.

5. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim \pm 10, wherein the support is an elongated arcuate member; and the at least first tab extending generally perpendicularly away from the support.

6. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim \pm 10, wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally away from the central axis.

7. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim \pm 10,

wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally toward the central axis.

8. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 1 10,
wherein the support is generally ring-shaped.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The hub of Claim 1,~~ A hub for use in conjunction with a spool having a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics, the hub comprising:

a core including a central axis;

the core being structured to be disposed on the spool;

an indication member;

the indication member including a support, at least a first tab, and a second tab;

the at least first tab being an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

the second tab being a characteristic tab;

the support being mounted on the core;

the at least first and second tabs being disposed on the support;

the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core;

the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab corresponding with the characteristics of the material;

wherein the support includes a first support portion and a second support portion that are separated from one another;

the at least first tab being disposed on and extending from the first support portion;
and

the second tab being disposed on and extending from the second support portion.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The hub of Claim 1,~~ A hub for use in conjunction with a spool having a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics, the hub comprising:

a core including a central axis;

the core being structured to be disposed on the spool;

an indication member;

the indication member including a support, at least a first tab, and a second tab;

the at least first tab being an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

the second tab being a characteristic tab;

the support being mounted on the core;

the at least first and second tabs being disposed on the support;

the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core;

the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab corresponding with the characteristics of the material; and

wherein the support is substantially embedded in the core.

11. (Previously Amended) A hub for use in conjunction with a spool, the hub comprising:

a core including a central axis;

the core being structured to be disposed on the spool;

an indication member;

the indication member including a support and at least a first tab;

the support being mounted on the core;

the at least first tab being disposed on the support; and

the at least first tab including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core

the support being substantially embedded in the core;

wherein the at least first tab is substantially embedded in the core;

a window is formed in the core; and

the window extending between the at least first tab and the exterior of the core.

12. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 10,

wherein the indication member is at least partially metallic.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of employing a hub of a type being structured for use in conjunction with a spool having a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics, for determining at least a first known characteristic of the number of known characteristics of the material, the hub method comprising:

employing a core having a central axis and being structured to be disposed on the spool; and

employing an indication member \div the indication member including a support, at least a first tab, and a second tab;

employing the at least first tab being as an at least first home tab ~~and~~ defining a home position of the indication member;

employing the second tab being as a characteristic tab \div the support being mounted on the core \div the at least first and second tabs being disposed on the support \div the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally

radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core; the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

detecting the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab;
and

employing the detected orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab to determine said at least a first known characteristic of the number of known
~~corresponding with the characteristics of the material; and~~ the support, the at least first tab, and the second tab each being of a generally planar configuration.

14. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 13 23,

wherein the support, the at least first tab, and the second tab are generally coplanar.

15. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 13 23,

wherein the core is structured to be rotated about the central axis, the rotational distance between the home position and the second tab corresponding with the characteristics of the material.

16. (Previously Amended) The hub of Claim 15,

wherein the indication member is a monolithically-formed single-piece member.

17. (Original) The hub of Claim 16,

wherein the support extends between the at least first and second tabs;
the support being at least partially arcuate.

18. (Original) The hub of Claim 15,

wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally away from the central axis.

19. (Original) The hub of Claim 15,

wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally toward the central axis.

20. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 13 23,

wherein the support is an elongated arcuate member; and

wherein the at least first tab extends generally perpendicularly away from the support.

21. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 13 23,

wherein the support is generally ring-shaped.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The hub of Claim 13,~~ A hub for use in conjunction with a spool having a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics, the hub comprising:

a core having a central axis and being structured to be disposed on the spool; and
an indication member;

the indication member including a support, at least a first tab, and a second tab;

the at least first tab being an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

the second tab being a characteristic tab;

the support being mounted on the core;

the at least first and second tabs being disposed on the support;

the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core;

the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab corresponding with the characteristics of the material; and

the support, the at least first tab, and the second tab each being of a generally planar configuration;

wherein the support includes a first support portion and a second support portion that are separated from one another;

the at least first tab being disposed on and extending from the first support portion; and

the second tab being disposed on and extending from the second support portion.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The hub of Claim 13,~~ A hub for use in conjunction with a spool having a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics, the hub comprising:

a core having a central axis and being structured to be disposed on the spool; and

an indication member;

the indication member including a support, at least a first tab, and a second tab;

the at least first tab being an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

the second tab being a characteristic tab;

the support being mounted on the core;

the at least first and second tabs being disposed on the support;

the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core;

the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab corresponding with the characteristics of the material; and

the support, the at least first tab, and the second tab each being of a generally planar configuration; and

wherein the support is substantially embedded in the core.

24. (Previously Amended) A hub for use in conjunction with a spool, the hub comprising:

a core structured to be disposed on the spool; and
an indication member;
the indication member including a support and at least a first tab;
the support being mounted on the core;
the at least first tab being disposed on the support;
the support and the at least first tab each being of a generally planar configuration;
wherein the at least first tab is substantially embedded in the core;
a window being formed in the core; and
the window extending between the at least first tab and the exterior of the core.

25. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 13 23,
wherein the indication member is at least partially metallic.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for employing a detectable spool for use in a printer, the detectable spool method comprising:

employing a spool including a central axis and being structured to have a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics;

employing indication means disposed on the spool; the indication means including an indication member; the indication member including a support, at least a first tab, and a second tab; and the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis;

employing the at least first tab being as an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

employing the second tab being as a characteristic tab; the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

detecting the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab;
and

employing the detected orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab to determine at least a first known characteristic of the number of known corresponding with the characteristics of the material.

27. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 26 35,
wherein the indication member is generally flat; and
the support and the at least first tab being generally coplanar.

28. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 26 35,
wherein the indication member is a monolithically-formed single-piece member.

29. (Original) The detectable spool of Claim 28,
wherein the support extends between the at least first and second tabs;

the support being at least partially arcuate.

30. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 26 35, wherein the support is an elongated arcuate member; and the at least first tab extending generally perpendicularly away from the support.

31. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 26 35, wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally away from the central axis.

32. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 26 35, wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally toward the central axis.

33. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 26 35, wherein the support is generally ring-shaped.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The detectable spool of Claim 26,~~ A detectable spool for use in a printer, the detectable spool comprising:

a spool including a central axis and being structured to have a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics;

indication means disposed on the spool;

the indication means including an indication member;

the indication member including a support, at least a first tab, and a second tab; and

the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis;

the at least first tab being an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

the second tab being a characteristic tab;

the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab corresponding with the characteristics of the material;

wherein the support includes a first support portion and a second support portion that are separated from one another;

the at least first tab being disposed on and extending from the first support portion;
and

the second tab being disposed on and extending from the second support portion.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The detectable spool of Claim 26,~~ A detectable spool for use in a printer, the detectable spool comprising:

a spool including a central axis and being structured to have a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics;

indication means disposed on the spool;

the indication means including an indication member;

the indication member including a support, at least a first tab, and a second tab; and

the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis;

the at least first tab being an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

the second tab being a characteristic tab;

the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab corresponding with the characteristics of the material;

wherein the indication means further includes a core;

the support being substantially embedded in the core; and

the core being disposed on the spool.

36. (Previously Amended) A detectable spool for use in a printer, the detectable spool comprising:

a spool including a central axis;

indication means disposed on the spool;

the indication means including an indication member;

the indication member including a support and at least a first tab;

the at least first tab including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis

the indication means further including a core;

the support being substantially embedded in the core;

the core being disposed on the spool;

wherein the at least first tab is substantially embedded in the core;

a window being formed in the core; and

the window extending between the at least first tab and the exterior of the core.

37. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 26 35,

wherein the indication member is at least partially metallic.

38. (Currently Amended) A method for employing a detectable spool for use in a printer; the detectable spool method comprising:

employing a spool having a central axis and being structured to have a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics; and

employing indication means disposed on the spool; the indication means including an indication member; the indication member including a support, at least a first tab, and a second tab;

employing the at least first tab being as an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

employing the second tab being as a characteristic tab ÷ the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core ÷ the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

detecting the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab; and

employing the detected orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab to determine at least a first known characteristic of the number of known corresponding-with-the characteristics of the material; and the support, the at least first tab, and the second tab each being of a generally planar configuration.

39. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 38 48,

wherein the support, the at least first tab, and the second tab are generally coplanar.

40. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 38 48,

wherein the indication member is a thin sheet of an at least partially metallic material.

41. (Previously Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 40,

wherein the indication member is a monolithically-formed single-piece member.

42. (Original) The detectable spool of Claim 41,

wherein the support extends between the at least first and second tabs; the support being at least partially arcuate.

43. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 38 48,

wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally away from the central axis.

44. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 38 48,

wherein the at least first tab extends from the support in a direction generally toward the central axis.

45. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 38 48,

wherein the support is an elongated arcuate member; and the at least first tab extending generally perpendicularly away from the support.

46. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 38 48,

wherein the support is generally ring-shaped.

47. (Currently Amended) ~~The detectable spool of Claim 38,~~ A detectable spool for use in a printer, the detectable spool comprising:

a spool having a central axis and being structured to have a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics; and indication means disposed on the spool;

the indication means including an indication member;

the indication member including a support, at least a first tab, and a second tab;

the at least first tab being an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

the second tab being a characteristic tab;

the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core;

the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab corresponding with the characteristics of the material; and

the support, the at least first tab, and the second tab each being of a generally planar configuration;

wherein the support includes a first support portion and a second support portion that are separated from one another;

the at least first tab being disposed on and extending from the first support portion; and

the second tab being disposed on and extending from the second support portion.

48. (Currently Amended) ~~The detectable spool of Claim 38,~~ A detectable spool for use in a printer, the detectable spool comprising:

a spool having a central axis and being structured to have a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics; and

indication means disposed on the spool;

the indication means including an indication member;

the indication member including a support, at least a first tab, and a second tab;

the at least first tab being an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

the second tab being a characteristic tab;

the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core;

the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab corresponding with the characteristics of the material; and

the support, the at least first tab, and the second tab each being of a generally planar configuration;

wherein the indication means further includes a core;

the support being substantially embedded in the core; and

the core being disposed on the spool.

49. (Previously Amended) A detectable spool for use in a printer, the detectable spool comprising:

a spool; and

indication means disposed on the spool;

the indication means including an indication member;

the indication member including a support and at least a first tab;

the support and the at least first tab each being of a generally planar configuration;

the indication means further including a core;

the support being substantially embedded in the core;

the core being disposed on the spool;

wherein the at least first tab is substantially embedded in the core;

a window being formed in the core; and

the window extending between the at least first tab and the exterior of the core.

50. (Currently Amended) The detectable spool of Claim 38 48,

wherein the indication member is at least partially metallic.

51. (Currently Amended) A method of employing a hub of a type being structured for use in conjunction with a spool having a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics, for determining at least a first known characteristic of the number of known characteristics of the material, the hub method comprising:

employing a core including a central axis \div the core being structured to be disposed on the spool; and

employing an indication member \div the indication member including a support and a plurality of tabs;

employing a first tab of the plurality of tabs being as an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

employing a second tab of the plurality of tabs being as a characteristic tab \div the support being mounted on the core \div the tabs being disposed on the support \div the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core \div the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

detecting the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab; and

employing the detected orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab to determine said at least a first known characteristic of the number of known ~~corresponding with the~~ characteristics of the material; and \div the support extending between the tabs.

52. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 51 60, wherein the indication member is generally flat; and the support and the tabs being generally coplanar.

53. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 51 60, wherein the indication member is a monolithically-formed single-piece member.

54. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 51 60, wherein the support is at least partially arcuate.

55. (Original) The hub of Claim 54, wherein the tabs each extend generally perpendicularly away from the support.

56. (Original) The hub of Claim 54, wherein the support is generally ring-shaped.

57. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 51 60, wherein the support includes a central axis; and the tabs extend from the support in a direction generally away from the central axis.

58. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 51 60, wherein the support includes a central axis; and wherein the tabs extend from the support in a direction generally toward the central axis.

59. (Currently Amended) ~~The hub of Claim 51,~~ A hub for use in conjunction with a spool having a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics, the hub comprising:

a core including a central axis;

the core being structured to be disposed on the spool; and

an indication member;

the indication member including a support and a plurality of tabs;

a first tab of the plurality of tabs being an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

a second tab of the plurality of tabs being a characteristic tab;

the support being mounted on the core;

the tabs being disposed on the support;

the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core;

the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab corresponding with the characteristics of the material; and

the support extending between the tabs;

wherein the support includes a first support portion and a second support portion that are separated from one another;

one of the tabs being disposed on and extending from the first support portion; and

another of the tabs being disposed on and extending from the second support portion.

60. (Currently Amended) ~~The hub of Claim 51,~~ A hub for use in conjunction with a spool having a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics, the hub comprising:

a core including a central axis;

the core being structured to be disposed on the spool; and

an indication member;

the indication member including a support and a plurality of tabs;

a first tab of the plurality of tabs being an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

a second tab of the plurality of tabs being a characteristic tab;

the support being mounted on the core;

the tabs being disposed on the support;

the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the central axis of the core;

the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab corresponding with the characteristics of the material;

the support extending between the tabs; and

wherein the support is substantially embedded in the core.

61. (Previously Amended) A hub for use in conjunction with a spool, the hub comprising:

a core including a central axis;

the core being structured to be disposed on the spool; and

an indication member;

the indication member including a support and a plurality of tabs;

the support being mounted on the core;

the tabs being disposed on the support; and

the support extending between the tabs;

the support being substantially embedded in the core;

wherein the tabs are substantially embedded in the core;

a plurality of windows being formed in the core; and

the windows each extending between one of the tabs and the exterior of the core.

62. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 51 60, wherein the core is colored, the color of the core corresponding with the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab.

63. (Previously Amended) The hub of Claim 62, wherein the core is formed of a material having a color corresponding with the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab.

64. (Currently Amended) The hub of Claim 51 60, wherein the indication member is at least partially metallic.

65. (Currently Amended) A method of employing an indication member of a type being structured for incorporation into a detectable spool for use in a printer, the spool having a quantity of material wrapped thereon, the material having a number of known characteristics, the printer including a sensing apparatus, the ~~indication member method~~ method comprising:

employing a support;

employing a plurality of tabs;

employing a first tab of the plurality of tabs being as an at least first home tab and defining a home position of the indication member;

employing a second tab of the plurality of tabs being as a characteristic tab; the support extending between the at least first and second tabs; the at least first and second tabs each including an elongated dimension that extends in a generally radial direction with respect to the support; the second tab being oriented at one of a plurality of known angles with respect to the at least first home tab; and

detecting the orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab; and

employing the detected orientation of the second tab with respect to the at least first home tab to determine at least a first known characteristic of the number of known corresponding with the characteristics of the material; the at least first and second tabs protruding from the support; and the tabs being structured to be detectable by the sensing apparatus.

66. (Currently Amended) The ~~indication member method~~ of Claim 65, wherein the indication member is generally flat; and the support and the tabs being generally coplanar.

67. (Currently Amended) The ~~indication member method~~ of Claim 65, wherein the indication member is a monolithically-formed single-piece member.

68. (Currently Amended) The ~~indication member method~~ of Claim 65, wherein the support is at least partially arcuate.

69. (Currently Amended) The ~~indication member method~~ of Claim 68, wherein the support is generally ring-shaped.

70. (Currently Amended) The ~~indication member~~ method of Claim 68, wherein the tabs each extend generally perpendicularly away from the support.
71. (Currently Amended) The ~~indication member~~ method of Claim 70, wherein the support includes a central axis; and the tabs extend from the support in a direction generally away from the central axis.
72. (Currently Amended) The ~~indication member~~ method of Claim 70, wherein the support includes a central axis; and the tabs extend from the support in a direction generally toward the central axis.
73. (Currently Amended) The ~~indication member~~ method of Claim 65, wherein the indication member is at least partially metallic.